

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

**LAINE et al**

Atty. Ref.: **30-543**

Serial No. **Unknown**

Group:

National Phase of: **PCT/FI99/00778**

International Filing Date: **22 September 1999**

Filed: **March 21, 2001**

Examiner:

For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE THICKENING OF  
FIBER SUSPENSIONS**

\* \* \* \* \*

**March 21, 2001**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS (AS ORIGINALLY FILED)**

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

2. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that pulp is taken into said pre-thickener from a screen, the screening consistency of which is about 2 – 4 %.

3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the pulp thickened by the prethickener is taken into a filter, the feeding consistency of which is 3 – 6 %.